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November 4, 2011

Dear Senate Insurance Committee Members,

The Economic Alliance for Michigan has a long standing position opposing any state-required health insurance payments. We are opposed to Senate Bills 540 and 541 that would mandate coverage for orally administered cancer chemotherapy. These bills will be up in the Senate Insurance Committee on November 8th.

We have concerns with legislation that restricts the ability of purchasers (whether, employers, associations, unions or individuals) to determine the types of health care coverage that best suits their needs. We advocate that state regulation should not be used to favor certain health care services or providers, nor dictate whom and how purchasers must pay for services. Further, state-imposed mandates result in higher health care costs for purchasers, which can result in harming employers' economic viability and workers' employment opportunities.

State mandates impact less than half of the people who have private insurance. The rest are exempt due to large employers who are self-insured and those who receive health care assistance through Medicaid and Medicare. There requirements would add costs for those who are not exempt, including small business owners and state and local government employers, further increasing problems for the insured and underinsured.

We urge to oppose Senate Bills 540 and 541.

Please contact us with any questions or concerns you may have. We are happy to meet with you and discuss our opposition to state-required health insurance mandates.

Sincerely,

Bret Jackson

President, The Economic Alliance for Michigan